

Agency 14 - Public Service Commission

Statutory Authority:

The State Railway Commission was established by constitutional amendment in 1906. The scope of authority and organization are contained in Article IV, Section 20, and Article X, Sections 1-8 of the Nebraska Constitution, as well as Chapters 71, 75, 86, 88 and 89 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes 1943. The agency name was changed in 1972 to the Public Service Commission. A complete set of the current rules and regulations is on file with the Revisor of Regulations.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is for Nebraska citizens to be provided safe, affordable convenient services in the areas under PSC jurisdiction.

Mission Statement:

Goals:

The goals of the Public Service Commission are to execute its constitutional and statutory duties in a consistent, professional and forthright manner at the least cost and for the greatest benefit to the State of Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	2,206,000	2,372,247	2,454,801	2,467,350	2,500,236	2,581,598
Cash Fund	26,287,213	61,815,308	66,011,824	66,180,916	70,093,028	70,296,199
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	28,493,213	64,187,555	68,466,625	68,648,266	72,593,264	72,877,797

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Program 014 - Commissioner's Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program includes only the personal service expenditures for the five elected Public Service Commissioners. LB 956, approved in the second session of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature, amended the statutes to raise the Commissioner's salaries to \$50,000 annually, effective January 9, 2003.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	262,560	268,847	274,331	277,831	297,431	304,214
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	262,560	268,847	274,331	277,831	297,431	304,214

Performance Measures:

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Program 016 - Commissioner's Expenses

Program Objectives:

This program was created and begun during the 1976-77 fiscal year and contains "expense voucher" costs incurred by the five Public Service Commissioners.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	29,890	27,021	37,000	27,021	37,000	27,021
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	29,890	27,021	37,000	27,021	37,000	27,021

Performance Measures:

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Program 019 - Modular Housing Units Program

Program Objectives:

The department intends to continue to protect the health and safety of those that live in or use manufactured homes, modular housing units and recreational vehicles but without placing unnecessary burdens upon the manufacturers. In addition, when such occasions arise, the department will continue to educate the public in the use of such products and promote state and local agreements for interstate shipment of these products. This will further the acceptance and use of these products, therefore increasing these products rate of manufacturing, creating more jobs for Nebraskans.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	442,372	521,161	597,946	590,504	597,245	603,490
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	442,372	521,161	597,946	590,504	597,245	603,490

Performance Measures:

All three (3) of these products monitored by the department are produced in Nebraska. However, many more are produced in Nebraska than can be absorbed by Nebraskans. A majority of their products are sold in other states. Significant attention is therefore placed upon the department's capabilities to not only enforce the manufacturer's compliance to the construction codes, but to also develop inspection agreements with other states and local communities so that the Nebraska products can ship across state lines with a minimum of additional expenses to the manufacturers.

The department's goal is to continue assisting in developing market areas for these products without sacrificing consumer protection. This is accomplished by continuing the training of divisional staff, keeping manufacturers abreast of construction code changes, following up on market area requests for these products and maintaining the state's low level of consumer complaints.

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Program 054 - Enforcement Of Standards - Public Utilities

Program Objectives:

The constitutional powers and duties of the Public Service Commission include rate and service regulation, as well as the general control, as provided by law, of all common carriers, which is hereby defined as all carriers, including contract carriers, engaged in the transportation of household goods or passengers for hire or furnishing communication service for hire. This program is comprised of general administration, grain warehouse, communications, transportation, and engineering departments.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	1,913,550	2,076,379	2,143,470	2,162,498	2,165,805	2,250,363
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,913,550	2,076,379	2,143,470	2,162,498	2,165,805	2,250,363

Performance Measures:

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Program 060 - Grain Warehousing

Program Objectives:

This program is comprised of the Grain Warehouse Surveillance Cash Fund, the Moisture Testing Program, and the Grain Warehouse Auditing Cash Fund. The Grain Warehouse Surveillance Cash Fund was established by the Legislature on July 1, 1984, to be used by the Commission to pay for expenses in the closing of a grain warehouse. The Moisture Testing Program is responsible for inspecting every moisture meter used in the state to determine the moisture content of grain delivered for sale. The Grain Warehouse Auditing Cash Fund was established in February of 1997 to offset costs and purchase necessary equipment in the performance of soybean check-off audits for the Nebraska Soybean Board.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	14,485	37,603	17,083	17,083	23,183	23,183
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	14,485	37,603	17,083	17,083	23,183	23,183

Performance Measures:

GRAIN WAREHOUSE SURVEILLANCE CASH FUND

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: The Commission uses this fund to pay operating expenses and salaries when it becomes necessary to liquidate grain inventories at insolvent grain warehouses.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE AUDITING CASH FUND

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Our goal is to complete as many audits as the Soybean Board requests us to do in the course of a year's time provided it does not interfere with our examination schedule of grain warehouses.

MOISTURE TESTING PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Performance is based on how many meters are rejected over the course of a year. By working with manufacturers and analyzing laboratory findings, the Commission's goal is to have an accurate meter at each testing location that will be within one-half percent plus or minus tolerance of our meters.

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Program 064 - Nebraska Telephone Relay System Fund

Program Objectives:

Assure that persons with hearing and/or speech impairments are able to communicate just as individuals without such impairments using the Nebraska Relay System.

Action Plans:

1. Evaluate the quality of the Nebraska Relay System using requirements set up by the Commission and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
2. Meet with the Relay Advisory Committee and the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and respond to any customer complaints about the relay system.
3. Assure that eligible individuals have access to equipment to be able to communicate using TDD's, amplifiers, etc.
4. Assure that billings for the service are in compliance with the contract for this service.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	1,007,625	1,066,750	1,137,330	1,330,751	1,212,501	1,419,215
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,007,625	1,066,750	1,137,330	1,330,751	1,212,501	1,419,215

Performance Measures:

1. Audits of the Nebraska Relay System and consultation with the FCC have shown that the system has met or exceeded all of the performance measures required by the Commission and the FCC.
2. Advisory meetings have been held at least twice a year with members to discuss the relay and respond to any concerns brought to their attention by the hearing impaired community. Continual contact is maintained with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to monitor their concerns with the relay.
3. An equipment distribution program was instituted in April of 1996 to provide credits to eligible individuals for their purchase of certain telecommunications equipment.
4. Review of the monthly billings is performed by staff to assure that contractual terms and rates are being met.

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Program 686 - Nebraska Telecomm. Universal Service Fund

Program Objectives:

In 1997, the Legislature passed LB 686 which authorized the Commission to create the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). The goal of the NUSF is, in conjunction with federal universal service funds, to ensure that all Nebraskans have comparable access to telecommunications services at affordable prices. In 1999, the Legislature passed LB 514 which 1) eliminated the sunset provision contained in LB 686; 2) granted the Commission the authority to fund the NUSF through a surcharge; and 3) exempted persons receiving support from the Lifeline program from any NUSF surcharge.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	24,822,731	60,189,794	64,259,465	64,242,578	68,260,099	68,250,311
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	24,822,731	60,189,794	64,259,465	64,242,578	68,260,099	68,250,311

Performance Measures: